



Colleen Friedlander Cawston, Senior Director
Washington State Department of Social & Health Services
Office of Indian Policy



Meet Colleen Friedlander Cawston

Colleen Friedlander Cawston brings a wealth of knowledge in the arena of Tribal Governance, having served on the Colville Business Council for four years, the final three as the Chairperson. During that time she represented the Northwest Area on a number of national, regional and local boards and committees. She has also been past Secretary for the National Congress of American Indians.

Her career spanned 18 years for the Colville Confederated Tribes, both as a health provider and administrator. In her current position as the Senior Director for Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Office of Indian Policy, she has been an integral participant in furthering tribal - state relations. Some of the key policy and program leads credited to her include; revising the WAC for Estate Recovery for Tribal members, development and implementation of the Contract Consolidation project.

Colleen is an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of North-Central Washington State. She is married to Rodney Cawston, and they have four children; Reymundo (35), Clarissa (30), Tyrone (26), and Arielle (21). Together Rodney and Colleen strive to maintain their culture through traditional arts, dance, food harvesting, and practice of their religion. Colleen is the fifth of eight children of Louella Friedlander. Colleen earned her undergraduate degree from Eastern Washington University in Community Health and was among the first class to graduate from The Evergreen State College with a master's in public administration, emphasis in tribal governance.